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In This Issue

- Secretary Clinton on the FY 2012 Foreign Affairs Budget
- U.S. Response to Political Situation in Libya
- Secretary Clinton's Remarks at the Human Rights Council
- Conversations With America: A Discussion on Stabilization and Conflict Prevention
- Secretary Clinton Speaks to Students at the HBCU Conference
- Deputy Secretary of State Steinberg at Duke University

Feature

Secretary Clinton on the FY 2012 Foreign Affairs Budget



(Photo Credit: AP Images) Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, March 2, 2011, before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

WASHINGTON, DC, Mar. 2 – Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton provided testimony on Capitol Hill before the Senate Appropriations Committee and before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee regarding the FY2012 State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) budget request. Secretary Clinton emphasized the significance of the budget to U.S. foreign policy, explaining, “The FY 2012 budget we discuss today will allow us to keep pressing ahead. It is a lean budget for lean times. I launched the first-ever Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review, the so-called QDDR, to help us maximize the impact of every dollar we spend. We scrubbed this budget. We made painful but responsible cuts.” In discussing the budget, she also highlighted the vital civilian missions in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq.

[Remarks Before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee](#) | [Remarks](#)

[Before the Senate Appropriations Committee](#) | [Remarks Before the House Foreign Affairs Committee](#) | [FY2012 Executive Budget Summary](#)

International

U.S. Response to Political Situation in Libya

TRIPOLI, Libya, Mar. 4 – The United States is actively responding and stands prepared to assist Libya's people through this turbulent period. “The United States has already imposed travel restrictions and financial sanctions on Qadhafi and senior Libyan officials. We have frozen assets to ensure that they are preserved for the Libyan people. And we have halted our very limited defense trade with Libya. We are working with the United Nations, partners, allies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, and other NGOs to set up a robust humanitarian response to this crisis,” Secretary Clinton said.

The Department of State withdrew Embassy personnel from Tripoli and suspended all embassy operations effective February 25. On March 1, the UN General Assembly voted to suspend Libya’s membership rights in the Human Rights Council. In the midst of ongoing violence, the humanitarian situation in Libya is growing more acute. On March 3, President Obama authorized the deployment of military and civilian aircraft to assist in the movement of third-country nationals out of Libya and back to their host nations. “The United States also strongly supports the universal rights of the Libyan people. That includes the rights of peaceful assembly, free speech, and the ability of the Libyan people to determine their own destiny. These are human rights. They are not negotiable. They must be respected in every country. And they cannot be denied through violence or suppression,” the President said. [Fact Sheet: Humanitarian Assistance for Libya](#) | [Efforts to Help U.S. Citizens in Libya](#) | [Remarks on Libya by Secretary Clinton](#) | [Remarks on Libya by President Obama](#)

Secretary Clinton’s Remarks at the Human Rights Council

GENEVA, Switzerland, Feb. 28 – Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spoke at the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. She gave remarks on the escalating situation in Libya and the Middle East saying, “This moment belongs to the people, particularly the young people, of the Middle East. On behalf of President Obama and the American people, let me say that we are inspired by what you are doing and heartened by what it means for your future. The United States supports orderly, peaceful, and irreversible transitions to real democracies that deliver results for their citizens.” [Full Text](#) | [Human Rights Council](#)

Inside the Beltway

Conversations With America: A Discussion on Stabilization and Conflict Prevention

WASHINGTON, DC, Feb. 25 - Ambassador Robert Loftis, Acting Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, participated in the latest installment of the Conversations with America series with Mark Quarterman, Senior Advisor and Director of the Program on Crisis, Conflict, and Cooperation at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. They discussed the State Department’s approach to leading through civilian power and addressed the U.S. response to fragile states, which pose some of the greatest security challenges of our time. Ambassador Loftis also announced the launch of the new comprehensive website for the Civilian Response Corps. [Text](#) | [Video](#) | [Reconstruction and Stabilization](#) | [Civilian Response Corps](#)



Secretary Clinton Speaks to Students at the HBCU Conference

WASHINGTON, DC, Feb. 23 – Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton delivered remarks at the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Foreign Policy Briefing hosted by the Department's Bureau of Public Affairs. The conference was attended by 300 students, professors and staff from 18 Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Johnnie Carson, Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs Philip J. Crowley, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities John Silvanus Wilson, Jr., and other senior State Department officials participated in the conference. The goal of the half-day conference, held in recognition of Black History Month, was to provide students with information about U.S. foreign policy priorities and career opportunities with the Department of State. [Text](#) | [Video](#) | [Photos](#)

Global Issues Affecting the Nation

Deputy Secretary Steinberg Speaks at Duke University

DURHAM, NC, Feb. 28 – Deputy Secretary of State James B. Steinberg met with students, faculty and the local community at Duke University to discuss policy priorities of the Obama Administration. He participated in the Distinguished Lecture Series of the American Grand Strategy Program through the Sanford School of Public Policy. In his remarks, Deputy Secretary Steinberg emphasized the importance of international cooperation by highlighting two convictions of the Department of State's approach to diplomacy, stating, "First, no nation can seize an opportunity on its own. There is always a need for international cooperation. Second, there is no invisible hand to bring the supply of cooperation—there are deep obstacles to cooperation." While on campus, Deputy Secretary Steinberg also met with students, faculty and administration. [Video on Duke University's UStream](#) | [21st Century Statecraft](#)

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